

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:
a main body defining a longitudinal axis and a radial direction, and including a plurality of support members extending about a circumference of the main body and defining a plurality of cells, the main body including opposite ends;
an end structure ~~adapted to be flared relative to the main body, the end structure~~ including a plurality of cantilever members ~~struts~~, each cantilever member ~~strut~~ having a ~~[[first]]~~ base end coupled with one of the ends of the main body and a second ~~[[end]]~~ opposing ~~free of the main body and distal from the main body relative to the first end~~ and being movable from a longitudinal orientation in alignment with the longitudinal axis of the main body to a flared position projecting radially outwardly from the main body;
and
the ~~end structure including~~ corresponding base end of each cantilever member being connected to the main body at a predefined bend location location having a ~~comprising areas of reduced radial wall thickness~~ at the bend location, with the cantilever member transitioning at the bend location from the longitudinal orientation to the flared position upon ~~as compared to areas of adjacent locations for facilitating flaring~~ of the end structure relative to the main body.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein each predefined bend location includes one or more notches.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein the reduced radial wall thickness reduces a cross-sectional area at the bend location by ~~areas of reduced cross-section are~~ about ~~in the range of 15-60 percent smaller than the~~ compared to cross-sectional areas of the cantilever member directly adjacent to the bend locations.

6. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the ~~predefined bend locations include~~ notches are provided at radially interior and exterior surfaces of the stent.
7. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the ~~predefined bend locations include~~ notches are provided at radially exterior surfaces of the stent.
8. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the ~~predefined bend locations include~~ notches are provided at radially interior surfaces of the stent.
9. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the cantilever members include enlargements in which x-ray visible markers are positioned.
10. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein the predefined bend locations include radially extending shoulders.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 1, further comprising linking members that extend between the corresponding free ends of adjacent cantilever members ~~end struts~~.
13. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 12, wherein the linking members ~~are configured to~~ straighten as the cantilever members transition into the ~~end struts are flared~~ position to accommodate an increased distance between the free ends.
14. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:
 - a main body including a plurality of support members extending about a circumference of the main body and defining a plurality of cells, the main body having opposite ends;
 - a plurality of cantilever members ~~end struts~~ adapted to be flared relative to the main body, each of the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ having a first end integrally connected at connecting locations with at least one of the support members at one end ~~[[ends]]~~ of the main body and a second opposing free end ~~free of the main body and distal from the main body relative to the first end~~; and

the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ including regions of reduced radial wall thickness defining a bend location for facilitating flaring of the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ relative to the main body.

15. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 14, wherein the ~~end struts are connected to the main body at connection locations, and wherein the regions of reduced radial wall thickness~~ bend locations are located adjacent to the connection locations.

16. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 14, wherein the ~~regions of reduced radial wall thickness~~ bend locations are provided by notches.

17. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 14, wherein the ~~regions of reduced radial wall thickness~~ bend locations are defined by shoulders.

18. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a main body having a wall thickness and including a plurality of support members defining a plurality of open cells, the support members extending about a circumference of the main body and each defining an undulating pattern having a plurality of peaks and valleys;

a plurality of cantilever members ~~end struts~~ adapted to be flared relative to the main body, each of the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ having a first end connected to one of the peaks of the main body and a second opposing free ~~end free of the main body and distal from the main body relative to the first end~~; and

the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ including notches having a reduced wall thickness and defining a bend location ~~notches~~ for facilitating flaring of the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ relative to the main body.

19. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 18, wherein the main body includes an end support member having a plurality of peaks and valleys, and wherein the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ are connected to every other peak of the end support member.

20. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 18, wherein the main body includes an end support member having a plurality of peaks and valleys, and wherein the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ are connected to every third peak of the end support member.

21. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 18, wherein the main body includes an end support member having a plurality of peaks and valleys, and wherein the cantilever members ~~end struts~~ are connected to every peak of the end support member.

22. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 18, wherein each cantilever member ~~end strut~~ includes two enlargements including radiopaque markers.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a main body defining a plurality of cells, the main body having opposite ends;
a plurality of cantilever members ~~end struts~~ extending from the main body, ~~the end struts extending~~ substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the main body in a radially-collapsed orientation and extending radially outward in a flared ~~an expanded~~ configuration; and

the cantilever members each ~~end struts~~ having lengths, ~~and the end struts being~~ a radially thinned section proximate an attachment location ~~along their lengths relative to the main body, said radially thinned section defining a bend location, at which the cantilever members transition from~~ ~~in both the radially-collapsed orientation to~~ [[and]] the flared ~~expanded~~ configuration ~~for facilitating flaring of the end struts relative to the main body.~~

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 14, wherein the stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the regions of reduced wall thickness are reduced in a radial direction relative to the central longitudinal axis of the stent.
27. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 18, wherein the stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the notches include areas of reduced cross-section that are reduced in a radial direction relative to the central longitudinal axis of the stent.
28. (Currently Amended) A delivery system comprising:
a catheter for delivering a stent; and
a stent mounted on said catheter, said stent comprising:
(a) a main body defining a central longitudinal axis and a radial direction, and including a plurality of support members extending about a circumference of the main body and defining a plurality of cells, the main body including opposite ends;
(b) an end structure ~~adapted to be flared relative to the main body,~~
(c) ~~the end structure~~ including a plurality of cantilever member struts, each cantilever member strut having a [[first]] base end coupled with one of the ends of the main body and a second [[end]] opposing free end of the main body and distal from the main body relative to the first end and being movable from a longitudinal orientation in alignment with the central longitudinal axis of the main body to a flared position projecting radially outwardly from the main body; and
[[d)] (c) ~~the end structure including~~ corresponding base end of each cantilever member being connected to the main body at a predefined bend locations location having a comprising areas of reduced radial wall thickness at the bend location, with the cantilever member transitioning at the bend location from the longitudinal orientation to the flared position upon-as-compared-to-areas of adjacent locations for facilitating flaring of the end structure relative to the main body.

29. (Currently Amended) The delivery system of claim 28, wherein the ~~stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the areas of reduced cross-section~~ bend locations are reduced in a radial direction only relative to the central longitudinal axis of the ~~stent~~ main body.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for implanting a stent, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a stent having:
 - (1) a main body including opposite ends; and
 - (2) an end structure having cantilever members, each cantilever member having a base end coupled with one of the ~~adjacent one of the~~ opposite ends of the main body, the cantilever members ~~end structure~~ adapted to be flared relative to the main body, the cantilever members ~~end structure~~ including predefined bend locations comprising areas of reduced radial wall thickness as compared to areas ~~[[of]]~~ adjacent to the bend locations for facilitating flaring the cantilever members ~~end structure~~ relative to the main body;
- (b) positioning the stent at a junction between a lumen of a first vessel and a lumen of a second vessel such that the main body is located within the first vessel and the end structure extends into the second vessel; and
- (c) radially expanding the main body into contact with an interior surface of the first vessel and causing the end structure to flare such that it is in contact with the interior surface of the second vessel.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the area of reduced cross-section of the stent is reduced in a radial direction relative to the central longitudinal axis of the stent.

32. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 18, wherein the plurality of cantilever members ~~struts~~ are connected to at least some of the peaks at one end of the main body.

33. (Canceled)

